

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) Snaffle bit (1) for horses or mules, comprising a mouthpiece (2), which can be placed between the upper and lower jaws and extends crosswise through the mouth, which mouthpiece has a through-opening (7) at each of its two ends projecting out from the sides of the mouth, each opening carrying a ring (3) for the attachment of a rein or a line, wherein the mouthpiece (2) has the shape of an outward-curved or outward-angled bow extending across the tongue (15) and lower jaw (14) and, wherein the bow shape of the mouthpiece (2) is located on a plane extending approximately perpendicular to the through-openings (7).

2. (Previously deleted)

3. (Delete)

4. (Currently amended) Snaffle bit according to claim 1, wherein the mouthpiece (2) consists of ~~several~~ two parts.

5. (Previously amended) Snaffle bit according to Claim 4, wherein the mouthpiece (2) is comprised of two side parts (5, 6) which are connected by a joint (4), wherein the joint (4) can pivot around an axis approximately perpendicular to the plane.

6. (Previously amended) Snaffle bit according to claim 5, wherein the joint (4) is located approximately in the center of the mouthpiece (2).

7. (Previously amended) Snaffle bit according to claim 5, wherein a pin (13) passes through ends of the side parts (5, 6) which form the joint (4), the pin being held in place at an end of one of the two side parts (5, 6) which forms a joint fork (11).

8. (Previously amended) Snaffle bit according to claim 1, wherein a cross section of the mouthpiece (2) is approximately circular and/or elliptical.

9. (Previously amended) Snaffle bit according to claim 1, wherein the mouthpiece (2) is made of a nonoxidizing material.

10. (Currently amended) Snaffle bit according to claim 1, wherein the pivot bearing sockets (8), which project out from at least one side of the through-openings (7) and which represent extensions of these openings, are provided on free ends of the mouthpiece (2), perpendicular to or at an angle of ~~90°~~ 90° to the plane formed by the bow shape.

11. (Previously added) Snaffle bit according to Claim 9, wherein the non-oxidizing material is steel.